CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

NEWARK, N.J., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1960

Clinton Hill Unit To Give Awards

...eighborhood ...awards fo... ...day at its ...party an... ...ven to ...oolidge... Rd., Maplewood, as "Neighbor of the Year" and to Louis Pitts of 267 Chadwick Ave. as "Member of the Year."

Brenn, who is president of the council's advisory board, is president of the Robert Treat Savings & Loan Assn. ...of the council's program, his ...ership in the Clin...

GEORGE J. BRENN

LOUIS PITTS

...president of the...

JANUARY 9, 1960

Opposes City Change Move

Clinton Hill Group to Back Mayor-Council in Election

The Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council voted last night to support Newark's mayor-council form of government in the special municipal referendum election on Tuesday.

No dissenting votes were cast as the 30 members at the Council's biennial election meeting approved a one-sentence resolution stating that the group "opposes any chan... in Newark's form of gove... Some members abst... ...roduced ...ouncil ...red... The ... by...

NEWARK EVENING NEWS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 ...

SchoolDrive Seen Stalled

Clinton Hill Group in Report Decrying Lack of Action

The Clinton Hill Neighborhood ...cil last night adopted a re... ...ating that its three-year ... for better schools so ...n a losing battle. ...e report was ap... ...ly by the coun... ...ntendent of ...ennelly, has ...Board of ...ool be ...nded

ANNUAL REPORT 1960

NOVEMBER 27, 1960

Asks Caution On Tax Help

Clinton Hill Group Has Questions on Relief for Redevelopment

The executive committee of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council yesterday urged the "utmost deliberation" by the Legislature in adopting legislation to allow tax relief for redevelopment projects.

The committee urged that public hearings be held on the bill proposed by Sens. Donal C. Fox, ...D-Essex, and Wesley L. Lance, R-Hunterdon, including a hearing in Newark.

The committee ... that before th... enacted ... ...it would ...s personal prop... ...ether or not similar tax relief will be afforded small homeowners in areas such as the Clinton Hill area.

What basis was used to set figures ranging from 12½ to 17½ per cent of gross rental income ...e amount of taxes which ...ts should pay during the ...e exemption period envis... ...n the bill. ...ffect the bill would have ...hances of construction ...ome and lower-middle ...sing to accommodate ...hose economic groups ...redevelopment proj...

JANUARY 21, 1960 — NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

WINTERS RE-ELECTED COUNCIL PRESIDENT

"Achievements and Goals" Highlight Biennial Election Meeting

...s was unanimously re-elected to his third term ...Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council at the Bien... ...January 8 at the Bergen Street Library...

NEWARK, N.J., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1960

School Approved

Clinton Hill Included

The Board of Education last night adopted a multi-million dollar school construction program... include a new elementary sc... in Clinton Hill, additions to elementary schools and re... of Robert Treat Jun... School.

In an effort to bol... to handle the ... gram, the board ... speedy action in ... vacant post of ... istrator, even it ... upon itself and ... Edward F. Kennelly ... ent of schools, the task of ... a man for the job.

The new school will be built on a site to be selected to relieve the overcrowding in Bergen Street and Peshine Avenue schools. ...additions will be constructed at ...gen Street and ... schools, and a ... will be ...

THE NEW JERSEY AFRO-AMERICAN, JANUA...

Chadwick Ave. unit sets block party

NEWARK

The Chadwick Avenue (North) block branch of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council will hold a party for residents of the street on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 8 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Battle, 110 Chadwick Ave.

...neighbors will be wel... ...is E. Dunnell, ...

1960 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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* * *

Most of the reports contained herein were delivered orally at the Annual Meeting of the Council Assembly on February 9, 1961. Several then delivered were not submitted in writing and are not included.

The assistance of Miss June Thomas in the typing of the reports and of Mrs. Helen Winters in mimeographing them is gratefully acknowledged.

For additional copies and further information on the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council write to 26 Shanley Avenue, Newark 8, New Jersey.

The Council is a voluntary, non-profit, non-partisan organization for community betterment active in a 100-block area of the Clinton Hill section of Newark, New Jersey.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT FOR 1960

Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council

Delivered at Council Assembly meeting, February 9, 1961

This report is an especially gratifying one to present. Not only is it an overview of the Council's operations for the fifth full year of its existence, but in many respects the year passed was one of the most difficult we have faced. I am happy to report that we have come through with flying colors, stronger than ever.

New Maturity

Last year the Council began to achieve a new maturity in its outlook and its methods of work. Through discussions, observations, and experiences we became more and more aware of the connection between downtown renewal and neighborhood blight; between discriminatory housing practices and the growth of new segregated areas in our city; between local planning and federal aid. A concrete instance of this maturity was the leadership meeting or retreat held last summer, where for eight hours the Executive Committee freely explored the many avenues of action open to us. Despite what seemed like bleak trends, the Committee, in answer to the question--is the neighborhood worth saving and fighting for?--unanimously answered, yes!

Other evidence of this new maturity was the appearance of the Clinton Hill Neighborhood News in printed form; a total of about 25,000 of these newspapers was given out in Clinton Hill and made an indelible impression on all who read it. One of its editorials was so biting and so accurate that a city councilman was moved, during the hearing on the Rooming House Ordinance, to attack it, although he had to distort the truth to do so.

I also cite the visit made to Philadelphia, to the regional office of the Urban Renewal Administration, to speak with officials about getting genuine citizen participation in the Clinton Hill Renewal Project, as evidence of new methods. We found that when we became bogged down in bickering with sometime unimaginative city officials, there were higher authorities on the state and federal level who were quicker to see our point of view.

Still, this did not deter us from joining with the Weequahic Community Council to confer individually with five members of the City Council about zoning, anti-discrimination, and housing legislation on the city level. Nor did it deter us from seeking direct contacts with Mayor Carlin when we felt they were necessary.

Totalling up these activities, I think we can say they reflect a more mature approach to the task of carrying out our Council's program.

Among the successes achieved by these methods, I would cite the appointment of three members of our Council to posts on city agencies, appointments which can be attributed to the unity of our organization, the personal qualities of the persons appointed, and the aid given us by Mr. George Brenn and other members of the Council's Advisory Board of community leaders.

The first such appointment was that of Mrs. Bertha Griffin to the Newark Commission on Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation; the second was that of Louis Pitts to the Commission on Group Relations, and the third was Mrs. Mildred Helms to the Sanitation Commission.

While acknowledging the responsiveness of the city administration in making these appointments, I think one should point out that they are all minor posts. When someone from the Clinton Hill section sits on the Board of Education or the Zoning Board, or perhaps the Central Planning Board, then I think we will be in a better position to say that there is more democratic representation on downtown city agencies.

Relations with NCNCR

The least satisfactory relationship which we had with any city agency last year was, beyond doubt, with the Newark Commission on Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation (NCNCR) - or rather more accurately, with the Executive Committee of the NCNCR, since many matters concerning Clinton Hill are decided by an executive committee and not by the entire NCNCR.

The NCNCR is charged with overall direction of efforts to preserve and improve the residential areas of the city, and most specifically with the community-relations aspects of the Clinton Hill Urban Renewal Project in the 14-block area between Bergen Street and Osborne Terrace.

Early last year, when the project seemed to be lagging and citizen ignorance of the plans was widespread, we asked that the NCNCR reactivate the former liaison committee which our Council has set up to work with former City Planner, Robert Hoover. In response, without any prior consultation with us, or, to my knowledge, any other Clinton Hill organization, the NCNCR announced the formation of an Area Rehabilitation Committee. Who was to be on it? The NCNCR was to decide. What were its functions? The NCNCR was to decide. What would be its rules of procedure? The NCNCR was to decide.

It was soon obvious, from the very first meeting of this committee last May, that it was to be run in an undemocratic manner, by a paid city official, without any defined parliamentary procedure, without any real responsibilities except that of publicizing decisions made beforehand by people sitting downtown.

Despite a motion from the Area Committee itself, that the leadership of the Area Committee be elected by the committee, that standard parliamentary procedures be used, that regular minutes be kept, and so on--despite this motion, the executive committee of the NCNCR rejected all efforts to democratize the Area Committee. Its message of October 18, 1960, conveying the NCNCR decision, stated rather bluntly, that the committee was "an arm of the NCNCR" and that all its officers would be appointed by the NCNCR.

This deadlock has persisted until today, a meeting with the Mayor in January having failed to loosen up the un-democratic procedures of the committee.

We say quite categorically, that unless the citizens of Clinton Hill, and most particularly those residing within the 14-block area, are given real responsibilities for the planning and execution of the project, it will not achieve maximum success. We say this not to obstruct the project, but to accelerate it and to harness the good-will and enthusiasm of the people in the project area, who have not been drawn into the workings of the project even today, four years and two months after it was first announced.

Of the many expert views which one could quote about the meaning of genuine citizen participation in urban renewal, I would quote one from the Newark News of February 8, 1961. The speaker, at the annual New Jersey State Planning Conference in Trenton, was Governor Meyner. "The best planning for any community, he said, 'can only be expected by people who really know the community--the residents themselves". This elementary lesson has yet to filter into the minds of the leaders of the NCNCR. I am sure that our Council will continue to exert every possible effort, including methods as yet untried, to bring genuine citizen participation to this vital project.

Other Organizations

Leaving the realm of officialdom, I should like to comment upon a statement I made in last year's report regarding the activities of other community organizations. At that time I said, "...there are very few groups in Newark which are consistently vocal on problems facing the people...the Council has had to fight almost alone in certain areas."

I am happy to report that I feel this unfortunate gap in our civic life is now being ended. Without singling out any one group, I can say in general that there are definite signs of life and action on a number of fronts, and that the Council is no longer as solitary as it seemed a year ago. In housing, in anti-discrimination efforts, in the fight for better schools, on tax question--there are now other persons taking up the issues which will become sharper and sharper as the next municipal election in May 1962 approaches. Certainly, the efforts by our education committee in bringing the resolution on the critical school situation in Clinton Hill to other groups is playing no small role in waking up long-slumbering forces.

It is still, however, not possible to include the Associated Community Councils among these groups. While one or two areas of the city now boast Councils which are taking a fresh look at old methods, there are still areas that are serviced by small, ill-equipped councils who rely upon ineffective means of achieving goals. In addition, the executive committee of the ACC badly needs strengthening. Perhaps it is a reflection of the organization's actual strength, but on several occasions, hasty or apologetic actions by ACC leaders redounded to the disadvantage of the ACC. One such instance was at the interview last November, with State Senator Fox on his urban redevelopment bill. Premature judgments by several of the leaders present gave forces favoring this bill, which our Council has been sharply critical of, an opportunity to claim wide community support for it. On another occasion, when our Council was criticized on the floor of the City Council, the ACC spokesman felt it necessary to apologize for us, saying that "one bad apple can spoil the barrel". Actually, no such apology was in order. Your President was in the audience and gave a thoroughly adequate reply to the misleading remarks from the councilman who made them.

Despite these weaknesses in the ACC, I urge this Assembly to continue our membership in it. At present, it is still the only group of its kind in the city. To strengthen it, we have reversed our previous position and now favor the hiring of a full-time staff worker by the Council of Social Agencies to work with the various councils. We also recommend serious attention to building membership in the member councils and to the development of action programs based on local community needs. These recommendations have been under discussion for several months and may be shortly approved.

Local Problems

Turning now to our own local community, the picture is a varied one. A major disappointment has, without a doubt, been the local business community. Save for a few persons of courage and vision, most of the businessmen suffer from

the usual afflictions of small business: super-caution about investment, reluctance to advertise, concern only with their own stores or next-door neighbors, and failure to unite on issues. These weaknesses, plus the slow but steady decline in the character and quality of the shops on Clinton Avenue, have alienated the commercial community from the residents as never before. Constant complaints from our members are heard over sharp sales practices, shoddy goods, loud and cheap advertising, unclean premises, suspicion of the clientele. The situation reached a peak only two months ago when two of the more prominent merchants engineered a scheme to separate about one-third the area of the big lot on Clinton Avenue (next to Robert Treat Savings and Loan Association) for use for a supermarket, a use which our Council succeeded in defeating as far back as 1956. Not only that, but the two succeeded in enlisting support from other community leaders who could have been more cautious in their judgments. The flimsy nature of the scheme was revealed at an interview with the City Planner and then at a meeting with the Mayor, who, to his credit, stated that there were no plans for the use of the lot as anything but a park and playground.

We in the Council are not blind to the needs of the small business community. Many of the businessmen have helped us through memberships, Halloween donations, and so on. They face increasing competition as more and more shops relocate from the Central Ward. In addition, the whole economy has been in trouble for the past year, and many persons in Clinton Hill are working half-time or are out of work altogether. But they will not solve their problems by hewing to the same narrow self-interest which led one merchant to say, "I can only think of myself". It is not for me to blueprint the solution, but I do know that our executive committee is ready to meet with bona fide representatives of the merchants and with anyone else to try to solve some of their problems.

Looking elsewhere in Clinton Hill, I can report that our ties with several of the churches were strengthened last year. We held meetings in some where we had never before trod. The office equipment in some new institutions was generously made available to us. Our relations with community institutions began to broaden, to our benefit. But we still have not succeeded in developing the organic links between the churches and temples and our Council that are needed for the maximum amount of inter-group co-operation. Each institution and each leader is so involved with his own internal matters that it is difficult for them to give more than the minimum to neighborhood problems. And personnel seems to be at such a premium that only on rare occasions have lay members of any church been delegated to attend our meetings and take part in the making of our decisions. Until this is done, there will continue to be weaknesses in the overall institutional picture. I hope that the Council officers, and especially the treasurer, will give attention to this vital matter.

Block-Branches

The picture on the blocks, however, is quite different. Through our block-branches we are able to maintain contacts with the mass of the residents on many streets. Some of the branches have done outstanding work consistently throughout the year. Among their functions have been mobilizing to fight new tavern applications, securing traffic and street lighting, aiding unfortunate neighbors, holding year-end social events, summer picnics, youth outings, and fund-raising events. Other blocks have suffered from inadequate leadership. Their chairmen rarely come to Assembly and other meetings or never delegate other members to attend in their place. They rely upon the few persons they know to attend meetings, instead of using door-to-door techniques and leaflets. The weaker block-branches are not to be chastised; they are to be complimented for continuing to struggle despite obstacles. But they need much more attention from the block-leaders chairman and the vice-president in charge of block branches than they have been getting.

Executive Committee

This report would not be complete without a tribute to the Executive Committee. Never have I had the privilege of working with a more dedicated group than the present Executive Committee. To detail all of its activities and responsibilities would take me far beyond the allotted time. It is enough to say that the Committee, which used to meet on the first Monday of every month, found its agendas so crowded with so much to be done, that it decided to meet also in the third week of the month. In between, Executive Committee members attend block-branch meetings, represent the Council at public affairs, get out leaflets, organize all sorts of activities from the Birthday Party-Social to the Annual Conference. True, there are differences of opinion on the Executive Committee, sometimes sharp ones; true, some members are able to give more time and energy than others; true, some are able to work more efficiently than others and more consistently. But overall, I feel great confidence in our Committee. I salute it. It would be no exaggeration to say that our Executive Committee is the hardest working group of any in all the civic organizations in Newark, perhaps even in the entire state.

The energy and flexibility of the Committee are manifest in the speed with which it is able to work out analyses of such complicated bills as the Fox-Lance urban redevelopment bill, as the Rooming House Ordinance, and the State Anti-Discrimination Bill. It is manifest in the flood of public statements which reach the press and the many, many public

appearances we have made before city agencies and other community groups. Just as the block-branches and general membership are the muscle and bone of the Council, so the Executive Committee is its heart. The Executive Committee trains people to leadership and also gives potential leaders help. I think it your responsibility as members to consider your friends and neighbors as potential leaders and to forward their name to the president or the secretary so your suggestion can be followed up.

The Bigger Picture

Of the many other thoughts which crowd in at this point, a final one will suffice. And that is the relationship between what happens in Clinton Hill and what happens elsewhere, in Weequahic, in Roseville, in South Broad Street, in City Hall, and in Washington, D. C. Our neighborhood is not an island unto itself. Its present makeup derives from two things: its street and residential design, which dates back 35 to 50 years and more; and very powerful fordes at work in all urban areas since World War II.

Taking the first, we will have to be imaginative, positive, and flexible in our program of slum prevention and neighborhood improvement. It will no longer suffice to resist change when it threatens our living standards; we have to offer substitutes. If the business community is laid out in strip pattern, an obsolete and blighting factor, then we will have to consider plans to revamp the business community so that traffic jams will ease, more open space will be created, and a more attractive and efficient layout will prevail. The merchants in an older part of Providence, Rhode Island, succeeded in doing this, while at the same time staying in business. We can learn from them.

Another imaginative use of our land, our most valuable asset, is higher-rise building. I say higher, not high. The old two- and three-story frame dwelling no longer suffices to derive maximum usage from the land. We should be vigilant to see, however, that any new developments that come in are open to the residents who are displaced to make way for them, and are in the rental or sales range that persons of low- and middle-income can afford, that is, persons of income ranging from say, $4,000 to $7,000 a year, which is probably the range of most Clinton Hillers today.

I would also throw out this suggestion, and you can throw me out with it! I am struck by the fact that in Newark's 23½ square miles in area, are 375 miles of paved road or taking each road at about 20 feet in width, about 40 million square feet of Newark's land are used for vehicular traffic, much of it just passing through or just

commuting by day. What a waste of valuable city land! How many parks, malls, swimming pools, playgrounds, and housing developments could be put up on that land! Of course it would be impossible to close all streets to traffic, although the recent snowfalls have practically had that effect. But in some sections of Clinton Hill there are hidden possibilities in the maximum utilization of our streets for other purposes than traffic. I will only suggest a possibility: The residents of a street, facing each other on both sides, might contract to get their street from the city. The cost could be amortized over a reasonable period of time. The street would then be closed to through traffic and perhaps all traffic save police, fire, and other emergency vehicles. The two ends of the street could be converted into parking patios or garages for the cars of the residents; the center of the street would then be designed as a park, a playground area, a small swimming pool, perhaps a bicycle path, perhaps a tennis court or track. Construction of these facilities would be through a public instrumentality whose funds would be gained through bond issues at reasonable rates backed by liens on the various properties of those streets whose homeowners would voluntarily and I imagine unanimously have to commit themselves to underwriting the costs. The result would have to be carefully weighed; certainly not all streets could be considered. But the value of homes on those streets would be enhanced, noice from horns and traffic would diminish, vacation expenses might be cut, and most of all, the street would be returned to those with a first claim on it, those who live there.

Now I know this suggestion sounds fantastic, and perhaps it will never be taken up; but it is along such new lines that we must begin to think if we are ever to escape from the perils and nuisances of city life while enjoying its advantages.

We in Clinton Hill have got to realize that the pattern of life in Newark is changing, whether we like it or not, and we should strive to gain the maximum for ourselves and our families from those changes.

So far, we have gained only the minimum: overcrowded schools, declining housing, rotting business life, snarled traffic.

We have to erect institutional defenses against deterioration: we need a neighborhood "Y", we need middle-income housing, we need new shopping and parking facilities. We need more play space.

While we are pressuring our elected and appointed officials to defend our interests, and we must continue to do this, we must also defend our own interests. We need the best persons to represent us in local government; we need the best ideas to represent us in long-range urban renewal planning.

The fulfillment of these objectives, or at least taking a long step toward achieving them, is the best measure we can take toward self-defense and community betterment in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Stanley B. Winters
President

SBW:jt

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1960-61

Elected Officers	
President	Stanley B. Winters, 26 Shanley Avenue
Vice Presidents	Stanley B. Aronowitz, 870 South 15 Street
	Warren G. Brothers, 61 Treacy Avenue
	Mildred Helms, 583 Bergen Street
	Kim Jefferson, 41 Seymour Avenue
	Louis Pitts, 267 Chadwick Avenue
	Helen Winters, 26 Shanley Avenue
Treasurer	Hickman L. Holmes, 15 Nairn Place
Secretary	Joanne Geyer, 583 Clinton Avenue (1960)
	June Thomas, 26 Shanley Avenue (1960)
	Hazel Sayles, 761 Hunterdon Street (1961)
Committee Chairmen	
Education	Bertha Griffin, 122 Chadwick Avenue
Block Leaders	Louise Patterson, 721 Hunterdon Street
Housing	John Judson, 189 Seymour Avenue
	Rose Heyman (Legislation), 405 Clinton Avenue
Recreation	Warren G. Brothers
Welfare and Welcome	Warren G. Brothers
Budget and Finance	Hickman L. Holmes
Health and Sanitation	Mildred Helms
Communications	Stanley B. Aronowitz
Public Safety	Louis Pitts
Public Affairs	Warren G. Brothers
Telephone	Rebecca Landever, 590 Bergen Street

Sanitation

A clean-up, fix-up, paint-up program was co-sponsored by the Newark Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council from May 2, thru 15. Cash awards were made at our annual Conference at Clinton Place Junior High School to residents on twelve blocks that participated in the campaign.

There have been twenty to twenty-five sanitation complaints forwarded to the Health Department. Co-operation from the Health Department has been favorable.

It is recommended that one person from each block be selected to handle sanitation problems on his or her block. First, make sure a violation exists. Second, notify owner. Third, if no action is taken, then forward complaint to Sanitation Committee.

Respectfully submitted

Mildred Helms

Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee received all complaints relating to police and traffic, forwarded them to proper authorities for action, and made reports to the Executive Committee and to the Council Assembly.

Periodically the captain in the 5th Precinct Headquarters was visited, and the Police Director was also seen on occasion. Twelve complaints from Clinton Hill residents were handled satisfactorily. There may be many more but the committee did not receive them.

To improve its work, detailed contact with each block-branch is required and new committee members. An end to double-parking, overnight truck parking, and better street lighting in certain blocks are needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Pitts

Education Committee

The Fabulous era of the "Soaring Sixties" has yet to become a reality for the children who attend the public schools in Clinton Hill. The "New Newark", while revamping downtown areas, has not yet provided for a new elementary school for our area. Instead of a "New Frontier" policy, our citizens on the Hill are hearing excuses of why a school is not feasible at this time.

Back in 1959 transiency, and people supposedly moving back to newly built housing projects in the Central Ward, were given as reasons for not building. However, we feel we have won our point on the question of a movement back, when at a meeting held in December, 1960 at the Bergen Street Library, Dr. Fuchs said, "We made a mistake, we thought people from Clinton Hill would move back into the Central Ward Projects."

As early as 1959 the Education Committee proposed several solutions to the problem of the overcrowded schools:

1. Elimination of all part-time classes, which at that time saw Bergen Street with sixteen, Avon with fourteen, ard none so far at Madison.
2. Reduction of class size to thirty pupils per teacher.
3. Building of additions to Bergen Street and Avon Avenue Schools that would include lunchrooms.
4. The temporary use of other facilities both in the community and in adjacent areas. This plea for the use of other facilities has repeatedly been rejected.

We had also asked for added kindergarten classes and improved library facilities.

In January, 1960 Mayor Carlin said he would seek information on Board of Education plans for new school construction in Clinton Hill. Nothing concrete materialized. Petitions signed by 3000 Clinton Hill residents asking for a new school were presented to the Board of Education without any response.

In spite of continued discouragements, appearances were made before the Board of Education almost every month in 1960. During that year, split-session classes increased with Bergen Street having twenty and Avon Avenue sixteen. Madison Avenue School hit the dust in September, 1960 with fourteen split-session classes. The population increase at Bergen Street and Avon Avenue Schools is as follows:

	1950 Enrolment	1961 Enrolment
Bergen	1,321	1,911
Avon	1,115	1,574

The census in 1960 revealed that our area has experienced a twenty-five per cent increase in population in the last ten years. Of course, in this ten-year period there has been no comparable expansion of school facilities.

The Education Committee in its statement of August, 1960 laid the blame squarely on the person responsible for the deplorable condition of our schools. The Superintendent of Schools, by not developing plans for the alleviation of our pressing problems, has been seriously remiss in his responsibility. We cannot lay blame on any other doorstep since he is responsible for the administration of the standards of our City schools. Unless the Superintendent comes up with positive plans for a new school in Clinton Hill, and wings on both Avon Avenue and Bergen Street Schools, the people of our community must conclude that the paid administrators of our school system are not competent to do the job. We also made note in this statement that the Board of Education's Capital Budget for five years of $35 million made no provision for Clinton Hill.

At our subsequent presentation before the Board in September, we were promised a new school to relieve overcrowding at Bergen Street and Peshine Avenue Schools; additional classrooms were to be added to Madison Avenue School; and auditoriums and cafeterias to be added to Avon Avenue and Bergen Street Schools. Victory seemed near.

In our October presentation, we noted that it would take at least three to five years before the school would be ready for occupation. We also noted that no recommendation had been made for additional classrooms at Avon Avenue because of proposed clearance for industrial use in that area. We therefore urged the Board to construct classrooms at Avon; urged again the use of temporary facilities; and urged the construction of mobile classrooms which may be used throughout the City wherever and whenever the need is greatest.

The first suspicion that the proposed new school would still be a dream was in December, 1960. The Clinton Hill area Rehabilitation Committee finally sponsored a meeting with Dr. Kennelly and Mr. Fuchs at the Bergen Street Library. It was a terribly stormy night and the snow lay in drifts and ice menaced underfoot. As a result, about eight people from the neighborhood attended.

Dr. Fuchs, at that time, mentioned a light industrial clearance that would extend from Avon to Hawthorne Avenue, between Belmont and Bergen. This would result in a loss of population, he said, so a new school would not be necessary. We were told also that Peshine Avenue School would re-receive seventeen additional classrooms. Avon Avenue School would receive no relief because of its close proximity to the clearance area. We were told, however, that plans would go full speed ahead for the additions of auditoriums and cafeteria (now named Cafetoriums) to both schools and the additional classrooms at Madison.

When hopes for a new school seemed futile, the Education Committee went full speed ahead on its proposed investigation of Superintendent Kennelly which had been approved at the December Council Assembly meeting. That decision brought the Education Committee and the Neighborhood Council to a profound realization that community spirit, co-operation, and enthusiasm can truly bring action.

The Education Committee together with the Neighborhood Council will, in the coming year, strive to obtain the best educational facilities for the children of Clinton Hill. How can we do this?:

1. By opposing the proposed light industrial clearance project. To encourage instead, a renewal of this area into a fine residential area. If we do not do this we shall have a further decrease in zoning restrictions, more rooming houses, and lack of decent sanitation; all of which has a decidedly bad effect on the schools.

2. Continue to press for additional classrooms at Avon and temporary relief in the near future.

3. Bring pressure to bear on the school administration for better teachers and fewer substitute teachers.

4. A continued day-by-day fight to encourage the school administration to institute a program of Higher Horizons, (raising IQ's, cultural enrichment, preparation for college, etc.) for Clinton Hill and the entire City of Newark.

5. To bring to the attention of the Federal Government, whose education head is Abraham Ribicoff, the lack of vision, enthusiasm and inability on the part of school administrators to cope with the school problems in Newark. Some very fine speeches have been made by Mr. Ribicoff as to the kind of decent, uplifting education he wants the Nation's children to have.

The people of Clinton Hill are going to demand that they not be left out of the plans for the New Frontier in Education.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Aronowitz
For the Committee

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADVISORY BOARD

CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, YEAR 1960

As the year 1959 drew to a close the Advisory Board was endeavoring to establish stronger ties with the Commission on Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation, through correspondence with Miss Agnes Coleman, Chairman of NCNCR, and with City Planning Officer George H. Oberlander. Efforts were made to interest them in the publication of our Neighborhood News and to encourage their attendance at Advisory Board meetings, and to ensure participation by the Clinton Hill Neighborhood in carrying out the program for the Lower Clinton Hill Rehabilitation Project.

Efforts were also made to have a member of CHNC appointed to NCNCR to facilitate liason between the city agency and the Clinton Hill leadership.

On December 22, 1959, the Advisory Board invited Mayor Carlin to attend a meeting to discuss certain questions which had arisen with respect to the progress of the rehabilitation program.

On January 4, 1960, Mayor Carlin agreed to meet with the Advisory Board at a meeting to be held at the headquarters of the Robert Treat Savings & Loan Association on February 24. Fifteen members of the Advisory board attended this meeting, and it was generally felt that earnest efforts were made to clear up certain matters concerning the status of the rehabilitation program. At this meeting, Mayor Carlin stated that he would be glad to consider the appointment of a member of the CHNC to NCNCR. Mrs. Bertha Griffin was recommended for this post and was subsequently appointed.

On May 5, members of the Advisory Board attended a meeting at Newark City Hall with Messrs. Stabile, Oberlander, Andruss and Councilman Gordon, to discuss the policy of the Planning Board with respect to rezoning.

Members of the Advisory Board also attended a meeting conducted by Mr. Samuel Convisser, Director of Community Relations for the Greater Newark Development Council, on May 13, at the Robert Treat Savings & Loan.

On May 31, a meeting of the Advisory Board was held at Temple B'nai Abraham to discuss certain progress reports and the major needs of the Clinton Hill community.

Another meeting was held on September 13 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, devoted largely to rezoning matters and to discuss the advisability of forming a Redevelopment Corporation. It was also reported at this meeting that Mayor Carlin had invited the Advisory Board to nominate a CHNC member for appoint-

ment to Newark's Municipal Sanitation Committee. Mrs. Mildred Helms was nominated by the Board and her appointment was subsequently confirmed.

A special sub-committee, consisting of the Reverend Herbert Messner, the Reverend L. B. Robinson, and Mr. Albert Levinson was appointed to consid the formation of a Redevelopment Corporation as a means of stimulating new business and construction enterprises in Clinton Hill. Messrs. Winters and White were subsequently added to this committee which met on October 7, 1960 at 26 Shanley Avenue with Mr. William Brach and Mr Al Barthan as invited guests. The Committee explored the possibilities of such a project, based on experience with similar ventures in Jersey City East Orange, Linden and New Brunswick. Mr. Brach pointed out the incentives offered builders and investors under the State's Limited Dividend Housing Act.

The sub-committee arranged to prepare minutes of the meeting and agreed to make a report and recommendations to the Advisory Board at its next meeting

The next meeting was held on November 21 at Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, at which, the sub-committee made known its findings and invited general discussion. This discussion led to a proposal to ask the city to abandon the plans providing for the development of a mall, playground, and recreation center north of the municipal parking lot and to sell or lease a portion of the tract as a site for a super-market.

While this served to confuse the issue, resumption of discussion developed the fact that there were no proponents for the Rehabilitation Corporation. The Board members voted to recommend to the Council that no action be taken to form such an organization until such time as it appeared evident that private or public capital and know-how would be unable to provide adequate housing as ably as the Neighborhood Council.

However, the recommendation of the Advisory Board was completely ignored, if one may judge by the action taken at a CHNC special meeting on February 23, 1961. Another meeting of a group designated as the Clinton Hill Committee for Cooperative Housing was held on March 16 to hear a report from a "Site Selection Committee". This group is apparently acting independently of the CHNC.

Respectfully submitted,

George J. Brenn
President, Advisory Board

Hunterdon Street (South)

The branch met regularly for ten times on the second Tuesday of the month. A total of 85 persons attended meetings. In addition to discussions of housing, education, and other council concerns, the branch conducted the following activities:

Three trips to places of interest were taken. They involved a total of 28 youths and 7 adults.

Ill members were remembered with cards and gifts.

The branch treasury cleared over $70.00 through sale of prepared dinners on August 10 and October 22.

A Christmas Party was held as the year-end social event.

The major block-branch problem is to increase attendance through better publicity and better planned programs. More activity among the youth is being scheduled

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Patterson, Chairman
Sophie Baylis, Vice-Chairman
Hazel Sayles, Secretary
Julia Lewis, Treasurer

Chadwick Avenue (South)

The branch met 7 times during the year on thesecond Tuesday. Attendance totalled 82. Eleven homes were improved during the Clean-Up, Fix-Up Campaign. Block problems which received attention were sewer cleaning, need for refuse baskets, tree trimming, end to truck parking. Some were handled better than others.

The branch needs a leader devoted to civic work, a more workable program, encouragement of youth to help, better publicity for meetings, and leadership training.

Respectfully submitted,

Louis Pitts, in behalf of
Lazarus Kaufman, chairman
Ella Sue Brown, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. Stevens, Corres. Secretary
Harriet Chestine, Financial Secretary
Jasper Parham, Treasurer

Peshine Avenue (North)

The branch met ten times during the year on the second Monday night of each month. About 100 persons attended. Our block participated in the Clean-Up, Fix-Up Campaign. We held a membership tea to attract new members. There was also a Christmas Party. Tree trmming is a major problem on our street. We also forwarded several complaints of disorderly behavior to the authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. R. Kelly, Vice-Chairman
Mrs. L. Battles, Treasurer

Mrs. L. Edwards, Acting Secretary
Elizabeth Terry, Chairman

Ridgewood Avenue

Our branch met on the second Monday of each month for 12 times. About 80 persons came to meetings, in total. We tried to improve garbage collections of the street. The Clean-Up, Fix-Up drive was very successful. A trip to Olympic Park was taken last summer with block children. Money and food were collected for ill neighbors.

A well-planned membership tea drew a nice crowd despite miserable weather, and we got eight new members. Getting the children to keep the street clean and orderly is a major problem. We should try to get more members and neighbors to attend meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Janette Martin, Secretary
Florence Brown, Chairman
Mable Lyons, Vice-Chairman
Mary Howard, Treasurer

Hillside Avenue

A total of 106 persons came out to 11 meetings of the Hillside Avenue block-branch, held on the second Thursday of each month. We met with people from the Sanitation Department and got a litter basket and some better street cleaning. Slides taken by a member showed unsightly block conditions and led to efforts to improve conditions. The Clean-Up, Fix-Up Drive got good results at the time it was held.

Our biggest activity was to keep a tavern out of Runyon Street and Hillside Avenue. Through publicity and petitions, we filled the hearing at the ABC Board. The chairman said he had never seen that many people at a hearing before. The tavern application was defeated.

One of our member's children was hit by a falling branch during a wind, although we had asked to have this tree trimmed many times. The child recovered. Keeping the street clean is our biggest problem. Conditions in some large apartment buildings, where the owners do not live, in another problem. Mrs. Genevieve Worde represented us at many meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Hamilton, Secretary
Mary Baker, Chairman
Amelia Peoples, Vice-Chairman
Wilhemina Register, Treasurer

Treacy Avenue

Treacy branch met each month for 12 times, on the second Monday. A total of 155 persons turned out. We had a well-attended Christmas Party on December 9 at Trinity Methodist Church. We cooperated in the Clean-Up, Fix-Up Drive with the Jaycees. The branch sent $5.00 each to three members who suffered deaths of loved ones. Our block-branch year-end party on Dec. 23 attracted about 80 people. Horn blowing early in the morning is a problem. We plan a membership drive next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Luceal James, Chairman
Walter Jones, Vice-Chairman

Warren Brothers, Secretary-Treasurer

Bergen Street

The Bergen St. block-branch held 10 meetings which attracted about 130 persons. The branch met on the third Wednesday of every month. A major struggle was waged against the entry of new relocated taverns into the area. Additional complaints were made against noisy and unwholesome gatherings at taverns. Litter baskets were secured for the street.

Despite efforts, uncovered trash cans still exist on the street. Most of the houses are in fair condition; several have had big repair jobs. We are canvassing new neighbors to get them to join. The monthly dues go to send flowers to the sick. Worst cooperation if any was that from absentee landlords. We held our usual wonderful Christmas Party. We need more leadership from block people in branch affairs and more participation in council activities by members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mildred E. Helms, Chairman
Rebecca Landever, Vice-Chairman
Al Daniels, Secretary
Harold Roberts, Treasurer

Other Block-Branches

The following block-branches submitted no written annual reports. Their reports were made in person at the Annual Meeting, or else no report was received.

Baldwin Avenue, Mrs. Grant, chairman.

Chadwick Avenue (North), Mr. Dunnell, chairman.

Farley Avenue, Mr. Slaughter, chairman.

Osborne Terrace, Mrs. Green. treasurer.

Peshine Avenue (South), Mrs. Robinson, chairman.

Rose Terrace, Mrs. Rowe, chairman.

South 11 Street, Mr. King, chairman.

South 17 Street, Mrs. von Busch, chairman.

Seymour Avenue (North), Mr. Dickens, chairman.

Seymour Avenue (South), Mr. Hazzard, chairman.

South 12 Street, (inactive).

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

I. Expenditures for 1960

Stationery	$220.76
Membership in other organizations	18.69
Reproduction of papers of incorporation	4.00
P. A. System	12.00
May Conference Refreshment at Clinton Pl.	28.00
May Conference Breakfast	3.00
Printing	129.33
Postage Stamps	118.02
Plaques - Annual Awards	15.00
Flowers to South Side Principal	5.00
Travel Expenses to Philadelphia (November, 1960)	11.80
Rental of Clinton Place for Conference	37.75
Conference operating expenses	27.50
Total Expenditures	$630.85

II.

Balance of check returned for 1959	45.67
Total deposited	590.02
Total check withdrawn	52.93
Total paid in cash	22.37
Total balance in treasury (December 31, 1960)	80.72

III. Receipts

Membership and Contributions	543.95
Received from Auction	125.55
Total receipts	$669.50

IV. Proposed Budget

Stationery and postage	240.00
Rentals	60.00
Public Address System	15.00
Printing	130.00
Membership cards	35.00
Conferences	50.00
Miscellaneous	150.00
Total	680.00

--HICKMAN L. HOLMES
Treasurer

HOUSING AND ZONING COMMITTEE

Due to the formulating of the problems, policies, program priorities, and operational methods by the previous Housing and Zoning Committee, 1960 was a year of advance. Our program and our method of work have become more effective and democratic.

In a rapidly changing neighborhood such as ours, we cannot afford complacency and need constantly to review and redefine our problems and find ever bolder avenues of activity. This is the underlying theme of our report.

I. Review of 1960 Committee Efforts.

1. Our Committee grew from 5 to 25 active members, with an average attendance of 10 to 15 members. This attendance took a dip when the Violations subcommittee, unable to find a chairman replacement, suspended activity. The committee was balanced between property owners and tenants, although not between upper and lower Clinton Hill representation.

2. To create maximum participation and leadership opportunities and flexibility to handle our program we did the following: a) had a period of orientation for new members; b) planned agendas, which expedited business; c) elected active recording and corresponding secretaries; d) established sub-committees in program areas to channel the interest and energies of our members.

The basis for more effective delegation of responsibility has been laid; further implementation depends on revitalizing these committees with new recruits.

3. Committee members appeared at many meetings of the Council bodies to discuss housing problems and programs. In addition, numerous reports and materials were published in the CH News during the year. From this experience we conclude that more frequent publication of the newspaper would enlarge the impact of the Council's efforts to enlist broad community support for its housing and zoning programs.

II. Program Areas.

1. Zoning: a) As the year began the Superior Court ruled against a variance for building a supermarket at 10th Street and Clinton Avenue. b) A petition drive was continued into 1960 opposing rezoning of Clinton Avenue for business. The opposition of CHNC and other groups resulted in the proposal being dropped. c) During the summer, the Planning Board proposed to permit two-family dwellings in Clinton Hill's first residential area. After study, the Assembly voted to oppose this move. A Council-wide delegation met with the Planning Board. The proposal was shelved.

2. Code Enforcement: In keeping with the philosophy of developing and maintaining good neighbor relations the following policy was adopted: Neighbors should attempt to solve complaints through direct contact with the parties involved. If this fails, block-branch representatives should confer with the parties to remedy the problem. If this also fails, the violation should be reported to the committee through the block representative for processing of complaint.

A detailed guide defining violations and procedures was prepared. A violations complaint form was printed which provides for standard filing and maintenance of up-to-date records of disposition. The task of further developing this program will fall on the 1961 committee.

3. 1960 Annual Neighborhood Conference: The Housing & Zoning Committee aided by non-committee members were responsible for the 5th Annual Conference, which was focussed on "Citizen Participation in Neighborhood Improvement", with special emphasis on Housing problems. A Post-Conference evaluation meeting was held which drafted recommendations to the next annual conference planning committee.

4. Survey and follow-up: A survey of exterior housing conditions made in June, indicated the following: In the area north of Clinton and west of Chadwick Avenues, the turnover has stabilized, but there is instability in blocks south of Clinton Avenue. Many large old residences are being mis-used as rooming houses on Hedden and Osborne Terraces. Improvements have been made on 150 homes, compared to half that number which are in evident need of exterior rehabilitation. On the basis of this survey, letters of commendation were sent to property owners who had made improvements. A second survey was postponed due to adverse weather.

5. Revised Housing Code: Members of the legislative sub-committee were active in the campaign to enact a Rooming House and Revised Housing Code for the City. This code was passed (although reservations were expressed pertaining to provisions which could bear strengthening). The test of the Code will be the City's enforcement of it.

6. Open Occupancy Legislation: The legislative sub-committee gave leadership in the effort to mobilize the community on the Proposed Fair Housing Amendment to the N. J. Anti-Discrimination Law. The sub-committee sponsored and secured speakers for the December Assembly on "The Need for Fair Housing Legislation". The Assembly gave general endorsement of State Open Occupancy legislation and authorized the sub-committee to prepare recommendations on the A12 and S1 bills. These recommendations were scheduled for the 1961 Assembly.

7. Middle-Income Cooperative Housing: The Housing & Zoning Committee was active in developing a plan for MICH through study and consultation with institutional leaders and advisory board. At years end, plans were laid to: 1) discuss the matter with the Mayor, 2) establish a CH Corporation for MICH, and 3) work with a representative of a leading MICH foundation.

III Recommendations for 1961 Pioritiee.

1. Increase supply of good housing: We recommend the Council: a) support launching of MICH projects in Newark, when in conformity with the CHNC income and non-discriminatory standards; b) develop community support for MICH in Clinton Hill; c) an independent corporation for MICH in Clinton Hill be formed; and the City Planner be requested to consider reserving a site in the 14-block renewal area.

2. Rehabilitation Program: We recommend the Council lend its weight to the execution of the 14-block program and we believe the program should be continued after completion of the Government assisted program ends and extended beyond the 14-block area as needed.

3. Open Occupancy Legislation: We recommend the Council: 1) support the A12 and S1 Bills, and the Housing and Zoning Committee enlist individual and organizational support in Clinton Hill for this Bill through endorsements, letters to legislators and delegations to the Legislature, 2) The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations be requested to study the feasibility of a City ordinance and/or other means sought to obtain considration of a City Ordinance.

Newark Biography Writers

4. Code Enforcement and Property Maintenance: We recommend: 1) means be explored for achieving fullest Council co-operation with the City's Conservation Program in Clinton Hill, 2) the 1961 Housing and Zoning Committee devote attention to implement and further up-grade the Revised Housing Code, 3) Efforts be made by the Home Improvements sub-Committee in conjunction with Violations sub-Committee to provide current factual analyses of housing in Clinton Hill. 4) Continue efforts to ensure the effectiveness of City unified inspection services at the inspector as well as administrative level.

5. Committee operations: We recommend the 1961 H & Z Committee: 1) recruit persons who have personal interest in housing problems and so far as possible some previous committee working experience; 2) seek to broaden the membership and raise the standard of the committee membership by representatives from churches and other groups active in the ares; 3) review the membership list periodically, removing, after personal consultations, all persons whose lack of participation indicates inability to continue as working members; 4) insist on responsibility delegated to the committee by the Executive Committee for developing programs relative to its area be respected; 5) urge that the Executive clarify the jurisdiction of Violations and Health and Sanitation Committees; 6) obtain a competent person to coordinate violations program; 7) enlist violations reporters in block branches and at large (where no block branch exists) to assume initial responsibility for handling complaints; and 8) hold bi-monthly meetings of entire committee and fulfilling interim responsibilities through sub-committee operations coordinated by steering committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Heyman
For the Committee